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OF ORMSKIRK.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE YEAR - 1942.

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.



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JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat Inspectors :

NORMAN W. CHADWICK, M.S.I.A.

ERNEST ALTY, M.S.I.A.



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Annual Report for 1942.

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ORMSKIRK,

NOVEMBER, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ormskirk Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1942.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—15,608 acres, mainly flat or undulating.

Population—At the request of the Ministry of Health, on the grounds of national security, this information is withheld.

Number of Inhabited Houses.—At the end of 1942 the number of inhabited houses, according to the Rate Books, was 5,440.

The Rateable Value at the end of the year was £113,238, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £447.

Chief Industries—A brass foundry, 2 breweries, 1 ironfoundry, 2 timber yards, 1 printing and bookbinding works, 1 flour mill, 1 oatmeal mill, 3 brickworks, 2 cake manufacturers, 1 wooden handle works, 1 neck-ware factory, 1 Sausage Factory, 1 Fertiliser works.

The main industry of the district is Agriculture.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS DURING 1942.

The following figures are supplied by the Registrar General :—

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	321	162	159
Illegitimate	15	4	11
Total	336	166	170

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Still births Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	9	6	3

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	220	116	104

Details of the Deaths are as follows :—

CAUSES.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	—	1
Diphtheria	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	1	—
Influenza	1	—
Cancer (all sites)	16	18
Diabetes	1	2
Intro-cranial Vascular Lesions	11	16
Heart Disease	34	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	—
Bronchitis	10	6
Pneumonia	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	4
Nephritis	3	8
Premature Birth	3	—
Congenital Causes	1	4
Road Traffic accidents	2	—
Other Violent causes	6	1
All other causes	11	14
Total	116	104

SECTION B.
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There have not been any changes during the year. All specimens and samples are sent to the Liverpool City Laboratory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance facilities are satisfactory. A motor ambulance is hired from the West Lancashire R.D.C. for infectious cases, and the General Hospital and P.A.C. ambulances are used for non-infectious and maternity cases.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no fresh developments or changes in this service.

SECTION C.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Owing to the increased demand for water, it was decided to explore the possibilities of a further supply from the Dark Lane Works, and to this end, tenders were invited for the boring and test pumping of the No. 3 Well.

Clorination of the supply on a very low percentage is carried out at both works. No extensions to mains were laid during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The analysis of the samples taken at the Disposal Works were generally satisfactory.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1942.

Number of middens, 734. Number of closets attached to these middens, 766.

Number of pail closets, 65. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens), 147.

Number of fresh water closets, 4,531. Number of movable ashbins for refuse, 3,567.

Number of waste water closets, nil.

CONVERSIONS.

	During 1942.	During five years 1937—1941.
No. of privy closets—To fresh w.c.s	2	38
To waste w.c.s	0	0
To pails, etc.	0	0
No. of pail closets—To fresh w.c.s	0	0
To waste w.c.s	0	0
No. of waste w.c.s to fresh w.c.s	0	46
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	2	55

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household and shop refuse is removed by the Council's own carts and motor vehicles, and is disposed of either by tipping or incineration at the Refuse Destructor. It has not been found necessary to make any changes in the service except to provide an additional trailer for the collection of salvage in the Burscough area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Premises visited :—

Houses	175
Lodging Houses	2
Bakehouses	18
Factories and Workshops	84
Cowsheds and Dairies	52
Slaughter Houses	1
Shops	5
Offices	8

Number of defects or nuisances discovered, 105.

Number abated, 96.

Number of notices served : Informal 98, Statutory 7.

No legal proceedings were taken.

SHOPS.

During the year five shops were inspected under the Shops Act, 1934, and these were all found to be satisfactory.

OFFICES.

Eight offices were inspected and all but one found to be satisfactory. The defective sanitary convenience at this one has since been put in order.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been taken in connection with smoke abatement owing to the request made by the Ministry of Home Security for works, institutions, etc., to produce as much extra smoke as possible.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two privately owned swimming baths in the district, but these are not open to the public.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Fifteen houses were sprayed with Vermicine where bug infestation was found. It was not found necessary to use hydrogen cyanide, as in each case the infestation was only very slight.

SCHOOLS.

All the elementary schools with the exception of one, are old, but their sanitary condition is fairly good. All are provided with an ample water supply from the mains.

It was not found necessary to advise the closure of any school owing to infectious disease.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The general standard of housing is good. The main defect is dampness, especially in some of the older type houses, where the brickwork is porous. Very few housing complaints were received during the year, and none proved to be of a serious nature.

There are a number of houses overcrowded, due in many cases to evacuated families from Liverpool, and also a large number of work people who have been drafted to the district, and for whom accommodation had to be found.

(a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately			
		under (b)	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority	.....	.....	Nil
(ii) By other Local Authorities	.....	.....	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	.....	.....	Nil
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :			
(i) By the Local Authority	.....	.....	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	.....	.....	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	175
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	578
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation.....	105

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	96
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	15
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	81
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were inspected during the year, and in a few cases minor alterations were carried out. The main defect was limewashing of the walls and five notices were served, where this was found to be overdue.

At the request of the Lancashire County Council, six samples of milk were taken from schools in the district for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, and in each case the result proved to be satisfactory.

Fifteen samples of milk were taken for examination for B. Coli and the Methylene Blue test. Seven samples proved to be satisfactory and eight unsatisfactory. The matter was taken up with the dealers concerned, and it is proposed to take further samples at an early date.

One bottling licence, three supplementary licences, and two dealers' licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936

(b) INSPECTION OF MEAT.—During the year 624 pigs were inspected and the percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis was 3.2.

The percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis was 2.9.

The weight of Tuberculous meat condemned was 2 cwts. 0 qrs. 7 lbs., and other diseased or unsound meat was 4 cwts. 0 qrs. 17 lbs.

Where at all possible all meat condemned was sent to firms who re-processed same for utilisation in the war effort.

In addition to the above, 4 cwts. of canned foodstuffs were condemned, and also 5 tons potatoes, 30 cwts. sultanas, 5 cwts. sugar, 70 lbs. cheese, and 20 lbs. rabbit.

(c) ADULTERATION.—The section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with this subject, is administered by the Lancashire County Council, and I am indebted to Dr. Hall, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following information :—

SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1942.

Milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Epsom Salts	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Gelatine	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Ammoniated Quinine	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Bacon	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cheese	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Sugar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tinned Soup	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Self-raising Flour	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was nothing worthy of special note about the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year, there being a decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, Pneumonia, Cerebro Spinal Fever and Erysipelas. There was an increase of five respectively in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever.

Most of the cases of Diphtheria were of a mild nature, one case, however ended fatally.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is still being carried out, and the following children were immunised during the year —

School Children	.....	.....	.....	.....	341
Pre-School Children	.....	.....	.....	.....	230

Forty-one cases of diphtheria were admitted to Hospital during the year, and in not one of these cases had the patient been previously immunised.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following specimens were examined during 1942 :—

Diphtheria	.....	.....	.....	.....	245
Enteric Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.....	.....	.....	.....	4

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR, 1942

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages.	YEARS.													Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever	29	1		3	1	5	12	2	3	1	1			1	16	1
Diphtheria	41		2	3		2	12	5	4	12	1			1	41	1
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	6						1	1	3					1	3	
Measles	9		2		1	1	4	1							1	
Whooping Cough	9	1	2	1	1	2	2								2	
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	19						1	2	2	6	3	4	1	3		
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2						
Cerebro-spinal Fever	3			2			1								3	
Erysipelas	8									1		7				
TOTALS	126	2	6	9	3	10	33	11	12	22	5	11	2	5	66	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1942.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.											
0—	...	...	...					
1—	...	...	...					
5—	...	...	..			1	1				
10—	...	...	.			1					
15—	...	...	...				1	1			
20—	...	...	..	1	2						
25—	...	...	...	2				1			
35—	...	...	.	2			2				1
45—	...	...	.	1						1	
55—	...	...	..	2	2			1	1		
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1				1			
Totals				9	4	2	4	4	1	1	1
				13		6		5		2	

The services of the County Tuberculosis Officer were found valuable and were much appreciated. In all cases notification was prompt.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

